

COTTONTAIL & SQUIRREL

The 2008 cottontail rabbit and squirrel seasons covered 1 September 2008 - 28 February 2009. Harvest surveys were sent to both resident and nonresident hunters for the period of 1 September - 31 December. A "late season" harvest survey was sent only to residents who responded to the first survey and indicated that they may hunt during the 1 January - 28 February period.

For cottontail, the daily limit was 10, possession 30, and the season was open statewide. For squirrel, the daily limit was 5, possession 15, and the season was open statewide. Residents holding small game, 1-day small game, adult or junior combination, or youth small game licenses were eligible to participate in the season. Nonresidents were required to obtain either a small game or a youth small game license to hunt upland game.

In 2008, there were 95,003 resident and 104,899 nonresident licenses issued that allowed holders to hunt upland game. Approximately 8% of residents and nonresidents were surveyed for the upland game seasons. Survey response rates were 68.6% for residents and 71.1% for nonresidents.

Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting cottontail, there were a projected 8,714 resident and 1,955 nonresident cottontail hunters. Based on survey responses indicating at least one day of hunting squirrels, there were a projected 2,833 resident and 230 nonresident hunters. An estimated 105,118 cottontails and 12,227 squirrels were harvested during the 2008 upland game seasons.

When asked their satisfaction on the season, (1 being least satisfied, 7 being most satisfied), resident hunters reported an average satisfaction level of 5.53, while nonresidents reported a higher rating of 6.04.

Comparison of the 1999 - 2008 cottontail and squirrel harvests

| Year | Cottontails | | | | Squirrels | | | |
|------|-------------|--------|----------|--------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Hunters | | Harvest | | Hunters | | Harvest | |
| | Resident | Nonres | Resident | Nonres | Resident | Nonres | Resident | Nonres |
| 1999 | 17,460 * | 731 | 96,881 | 1,265 | 10,834 * | 98 | 57,190 | 1,470 |
| 2000 | 26,255 * | 1,461 | 266,335 | 6,764 | 12,176 * | 143 | 50,863 | 486 |
| 2001 | 11,518 * | 593 | 74,674 | 2,900 | 5,608 * | 132 | 19,949 | 1,023 |
| 2002 | 11,904 * | 1,006 | 60,146 | 2,917 | 7,300 * | 268 | 29,846 | 603 |
| 2003 | 15,526 * | 1,016 | 146,070 | 2,103 | 7,857 * | 188 | 46,308 | 978 |
| 2004 | 14,794* | 1,244 | 164,480 | 3,545 | 7,373* | 188 | 42,748 | 451 |
| 2005 | 11,414 | 2,193 | 130,348 | 10,022 | 3,821 | 86 | 15,093 | 0 |
| 2006 | 9,617 | 2,236 | 105,787 | 10,040 | 3,503 | 115 | 19,792 | 210 |
| 2007 | 8,732 | 1,676 | 87,320 | 11,430 | 2,644 | 200 | 13,405 | 240 |
| 2008 | 8,714 | 1,955 | 96,203 | 8,915 | 2,833 | 230 | 11,785 | 442 |

Resident hunter totals include projected hunter totals from the late and "regular" season harvest surveys. Survey format changed in 2005 and may not be directly comparable to previous years.

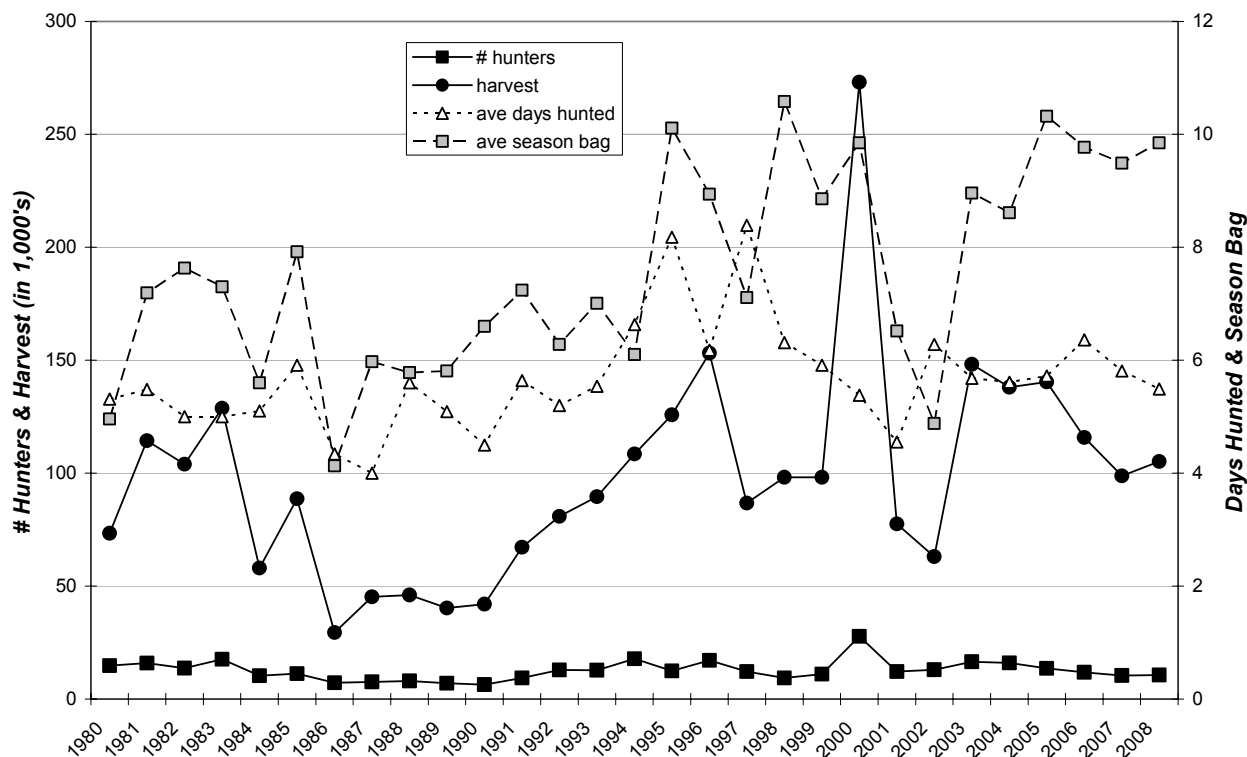
UPLAND GAME HARVEST PROJECTIONS FOR 2008

Last Revised: 4 May 2009

| | RESIDENT TOTALS BY LICENSE TYPE | | | | | NONRESIDENT TOTALS | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Small Game | Combination | Junior Combo | Youth SmGm | Sum Estimates | Non Res Sm Game | Youth Sm Gm | Sum Estimates |
| Licenses Sold | 35,754 | 44,077 | 7,878 | 7,294 | 95,003 | 101,510 | 3,389 | 104,899 |
| Projected ACTIVE UPLAND GAME HUNTERS | 2,444 | 4,381 | 1,073 | 1,181 | 9,079 | 1,840 | 174 | 2,014 |
| Number Sampled by Survey | 2,682 | 3,542 | 633 | 605 | 7,462 | 7,471 | 242 | 7,713 |
| Number Responded to Survey | 1,726 | 2,656 | 345 | 389 | 5,116 | 5,329 | 153 | 5,482 |
| Responded and Participated in Season | 118 | 264 | 47 | 63 | 492 | 99 | 8 | 107 |
| Responded but DID NOT HUNT upland game | 1,608 | 2,392 | 298 | 326 | 4,624 | 5,230 | 145 | 5,375 |
| Survey Response Rate | 64.4% | 75.0% | 54.5% | 64.3% | 68.6% | 71.3% | 63.2% | 71.1% |
| Number Hunters Reporting Cottontail Days | 114 | 253 | 45 | 60 | 472 | 97 | 7 | 104 |
| Sum Cottontail Hunted Days | 557 | 1,377 | 427 | 431 | 2,792 | 321 | 49 | 370 |
| Average Days Hunted Cottontails | 4.89 | 5.44 | 9.49 | 7.18 | 5.92 | 3.31 | 7.00 | 3.56 |
| Sum Cottontails Bagged | 1,132 | 2,842 | 684 | 551 | 5,209 | 464 | 10 | 474 |
| Average Cottontail Bag for Season | 9.93 | 11.23 | 15.20 | 9.18 | 11.04 | 4.78 | 1.43 | 4.56 |
| Projected Days Cottontail Hunting | 11,550 | 22,843 | 9,756 | 8,078 | 51,587 | 5,965 | 1,071 | 6,960 |
| Projected Number Cottontail Hunters | 2,362 | 4,199 | 1,028 | 1,125 | 8,714 | 1,802 | 153 | 1,955 |
| Projected Cottontail Bag | 23,455 | 47,155 | 15,626 | 10,328 | 96,203 | 8,614 | 219 | 8,915 |
| TOTAL COTTONTAIL HARVEST = | | | | | | 105,118 | | |
| Number Hunters Reporting Squirrel Days | 32 | 71 | 18 | 31 | 152 | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| Sum Squirrel Hunted Days | 108 | 352 | 133 | 82 | 675 | 41 | 2 | 43 |
| Average Days Hunted Squirrels | 3.38 | 4.96 | 7.39 | 2.65 | 4.44 | 4.10 | 1.00 | 3.58 |
| Sum Squirrels Bagged | 113 | 353 | 108 | 58 | 632 | 21 | 2 | 23 |
| Average Squirrel Bag for Season | 3.53 | 4.97 | 6.00 | 1.87 | 4.16 | 2.10 | 1.00 | 1.92 |
| Projected Days Squirrel Hunting | 2,241 | 5,843 | 3,037 | 1,540 | 12,579 | 763 | 44 | 823 |
| Projected Number Squirrel Hunters | 663 | 1,178 | 411 | 581 | 2,833 | 186 | 44 | 230 |
| Projected Squirrels Bag | 2,340 | 5,855 | 2,466 | 1,086 | 11,785 | 391 | 44 | 442 |
| TOTAL SQUIRREL HARVEST = | | | | | | 12,227 | | |
| Mean Satisfaction Score * | 5.75 | 5.43 | 5.53 | 5.55 | 5.53 | 6.04 | 6.00 | 6.04 |

* Based on scale of 1-7 with 1="very dissatisfied" and 7="very satisfied"

SOUTH DAKOTA COTTONTAIL HARVEST, 1980-2008



SOUTH DAKOTA SQUIRREL HARVEST, 1980-2008

